



Evidence review of sustainable whole system approaches and models for tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The focus of the project is an evidence review of integrated and multi-agency models and approaches to inform the development of an all-Wales sustainable whole system approach to tackling [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence](#) (VAWDASV). The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and other stakeholders to develop research outputs and support Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

The Organisation

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within the Communities, Social Justice and Early Years Evidence Unit, which is part of Knowledge and Analytic services (KAS) based in the Communities and Social Justice directorate. KAS provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

The Internship

The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to undertake research to inform policy design and implementation across Welsh Government. The research will benefit VAWDASV policy development and the delivery of the [VAWDASV Blueprint action plan](#), specifically within the [Sustainable Whole Systems Approach workstream](#). The internship will require working closely with policy officials and researchers and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge. There may also be potential to meet with external stakeholders and other Government Departments.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training. Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

- Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work of the Welsh Government.

- The intern's colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern's PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis', as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
- Transferable skills and knowledge
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills

The Project

Evidence review of whole system approaches and models for tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Background

To prevent VAWDASV and protect and support those affected by it, public services in Wales should be underpinned by a sustainable whole systems approach to needs-based planning and commissioning of services. To respond to the needs of victims and survivors, a whole system approach depends upon effective structures in place for strategic planning and procurement of services at a regional and national level and effective collaboration between statutory and specialist services. The review will focus on the characteristics of VAWDASV-specific interventions, violence prevention and wider public health or population wellbeing approaches that contribute to the prevention and protection of those experiencing VAWDASV. By assessing and synthesising evidence of existing whole system, integrated and multi-agency approaches, the research will provide an understanding of the effective characteristics that could inform the development of an all-Wales whole system model to tackling VAWDASV.

Anticipated project outcomes:

The main project outcome is a literature review of existing whole system, integrated and multi-agency approaches to tackling VAWDASV and related public health issues. This will be predominantly desk-based (e.g. reviewing academic, governmental, third sector and grey literature), but if time allows it may also involve some qualitative interviews with internal stakeholders (e.g., to conduct scoping interviews to better understand the research context and need). We anticipate that this research will:

1. Synthesise existing approaches or models relevant to the policy area, with a focus on those supported by robust evaluation or supported by systematic reviews
2. Examine the enabling characteristics (and barriers) of existing approaches or models to deliver responsive, joined-up services that meet the needs of service users (including prevention)
3. Provide a set of conclusions that could support members of Blueprint workstream in their development of an all-Wales whole system approach to tackling VAWDASV

This work would result in a full report synthesising and summarising the evidence, including an executive summary and presentation of the findings to policy and analytical officials in Welsh Government.

Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for a maximum of 3 months. Full time students are expected to step back from their PhD to focus on the placement for its duration in line with ESRC guidelines

([ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide](#) p. 27). Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of 3 months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), this would be negotiated between the WG and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours on the application form.

Student specification

The student must have:

- the ability to search, synthesise and critically appraise literature
- qualitative interviewing skills;
- the ability to collaborate with others to meet the research needs and develop the research design;
- report writing and presentation skills;
- project design and management skills;

Start date of internship

January / February 2026 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

Funding and costs

Reasonable travel costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS) guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Katy Marrin Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales and Jo Coates Joanne.Coates@gov.wales.

Security

The Welsh Government's vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

Nationality requirements

'Eligibility for taking up an internship on this scheme is dependent on meeting the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#). Please check that you are eligible before applying. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be able to take up a placement opportunity.

Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to Nerys Owens (nerys.owens@gov.wales)

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